

Classic Poetry Series

Jeffrey Harrison
- poems -

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Jeffrey Harrison()

Jeffrey W. Harrison is an American poet. His most recent poetry collection is *The Names of Things: New & Selected Poems* (The Wayweiser Press, 2006). His poems have appeared in literary journals and magazines including *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *The Yale Review*, *Poets of the New Century*. His honors include Pushcart Prizes, Guggenheim, National Endowment for the Arts, and Amy Lowell Traveling fellowships. He has taught at George Washington University, Phillips Academy, and College of the Holy Cross. He is currently on the faculty of the Stonecoast MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine. He lives in Dover, Massachusetts.

Honors and awards

The Singing Underneath selected by James Merrill for the National Poetry Series,
1999 Guggenheim Fellowship
National Endowment for the Arts
two Pushcart Prizes
1988-1989 Amy Lowell Poetry Travelling Scholarship
Lavan Younger Poets Award from the Academy of American Poets.

Necessity

John Clare
wrote poems
on scraps
of paper,

erased them
with bread
he ate
afterwards.

When he ran
out of scraps
he wrote
in his hat.

When he ran
out of bread
he ate
grass.

Jeffrey Harrison

Rilke's Fear Of Dogs

had less to do
with any harm
they might inflict
than with the sad
look in their eyes
expressing a need
for love he felt
he couldn't meet.
And so he looked
away from them.

He was too busy
for such obligations,
waiting instead
for angels to speak,
looking up at heaven
with an expression
they couldn't help
responding to,
try as they might
to avoid his gaze.

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